

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 18-22 were pending in this application prior to the amendments herein. Claim 4 is cancelled without any prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-3 and 18-22 are therefore pending.

Allowable Subject Matter – Claims 1-3 and 18-22

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-3 and 18-22.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claim 4 is cancelled without any prejudice or disclaimer, and the rejection of Claim 4 is moot in view of its cancellation.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Applicant respectfully notes that the Examiner has characterized various teachings of the cited references in the Office Action dated August 22, 2008 and other previous Office Actions. The fact that Applicant has not responded to all of the Examiner's characterizations is not to be taken as a concession that these characterizations of the references, alone or in combination, are accurate or complete. Also, by discussing only certain claim features, Applicant does not concede that the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest other features of the claims. Moreover, the foregoing remarks in no way concede that patentability rests on a single feature or a subset of features of a claim; rather, it is the combination of features recited in each claim that makes each claim separately patentable.

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow Claims 1-3 and 18-22 to issue. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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